

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6081

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EO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN INTEREST IN ERTS SERVICES

1. IT APPEARS THAT THE GOV HAS DECIDED NOT TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FORWARDED FROM NASA. ITS DECISION APPEARS TO BE BASED ON DISAPPOINTMENT OVER MATERIAL SUPPLIES BY NASA BECAUSE OF CLOUD COVER, REPORTEDLY ON OVER 90PCT OF THE IMAGES. ANOTHER, POSSIBLY MORE IMPORTANT REASON IS THE REALIZATION THAT THE HUMAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN VENEZUELA ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO MAKE PROFITABLE USE OF ERTS MATERIAL. THIS REASONING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC WORKS AND AGRICULTURE.

2. AS THE COORDINATOR FOR THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT, DR. BEATRIZ ALBORNOZ, TOLD EMBOFF THE DECISION WAS MADE TO FIRST SELECT AND TRAIN EXPERTS AND THEN TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITIES.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF BENDIX INTERNATIONAL, HOWEVER, HAVE MADE PRESENTATION BOTH TO THE COMMITTEE AND TO THE NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICE, A DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS. THIS PRESENTATION CONTAINED A DESCRIPTION OF BENDIX'S AIRBORNE SYSTEM, WHICH, WHILE SLOWER, PROVIDES THE SAME MATERIAL AS THAT TRANSMITTED FROM ERTS, AND UTILIZES THE SAME PROCESSING EQUIPMENT. BENDIX
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SUGGESTED THAT FIRST THE AIRBORNE SYSTEM BE BOUGHT AND THAT A

LATER ADDITION OF A RECEIVING SYSTEM TO THE THEN EXISTING PROCESSING INSTALLATION WOULD BE TECHNICALLY AND FINANCIALLY RELATIVELY EASY.

4. THE REACTION BY THE CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICE APPARENTLY WAS VERY POSITIVE AND ITS DIRECTOR REQUESTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A TENTATIVE QUOTATION. SINCE THE CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICE IS ALREADY ENGAGED IN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORK., IT WOULD UTILIZE BOTH SYSTEMS AND MAKE ITS RESULTS AVAILABLE TO ALL USERS. THE DIRECTOR IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED THAT HIS OFFICE HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE ENTIRE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE AIRCRAFT, OUTRIGHT AND PROMISED A SPEEDY DECISION.

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